

horn at the toe of upturned leather. When a man becomes engaged he wears flowers in those horns to indicate that he "is taken" and "not interested" in other girls (Please note cover picture and shoes worn by Vyts). He may also wear the red soled slipper.

The shirt is always worn over the trousers. It can be plain or trimmed with lace or with embroidery. The front opens midway with a placket. He may wear a bowed tie (if it is collared) or the shirt may be collarless.

The belt (Pašus) to keep the shirt in place is either narrow like the Lithuanian "Juosta", or very wide and draped in an Oriental fashion. Behind these belts some men carry their swords and pistols.

The boleros are of many varieties. Plain black and waist-long, or short red boleros with plenty of trimmings.

The hats may be black, round domed and nearly brimless with a bright band and bright feathers at the side, or of the short stiff fez-like. see cver picture.

## NEW FOLK DANCE BOOK

Name ..... FOLK DANCES FOR ALL  
Author ..... MICHAEL HERMAN  
Publiser ..... BARNES & NOBLE, INC. N. Y.  
Price ..... \$1.00

New York's Michael Herman compiled a book of folk dances for all. He did a very excellent job of it. The book contains 19 dances from 16 countries. The selection is varied. The description is clear. The drawings by Ben Stein are "cute" and helpful. Gjon Milli's photography is beautiful. The transitional monologue from one dance to the next by the author, is homey and pleasant. The whole make-up of the book is neat, and it is certainly worth the money.

Herman's book is as bad history as it is good folk dancing. Many readers will gather from "It was no easy task to make selections from several hundred unpublished folk dances in our collection," the mistaken notion that all the dances in his book were heretofore unpublished. Such a reader would be hard put to it to understand how it was, then, that "They are intensely popular with folk groups all over the nation." The truth is that, some of the dances are so "intensely popular" that they are rather worn to the bone. Some of them appeared in the various bulletins issued by local Co-op groups. Many of them appeared in Herman's own bulletin. several appeared in the Californian "Let's Dance" A version of the Varsovienne in Dance And Be Merry Vol. 1 by V.F. Beliajus. The Patch Tantz appeared in Merrily Dance by V. F. Beliajus, and the Vizonsky collection. To Ting and Sextur appear in practically every collection which describes Danish dances.

There is a provincial belief that the sun rises and sets in New York, beyond that city and its environs live a people who know nothing. Occasionally they might, as in passing, mention other parts, most likely, tho, California. That might explain why dances that are old stuff outside of the "Mecca" is still new and "unpublished" in New York. But if it is bad history, it is still good folk dancing.

## REGARDING THE KALVELIS

A few months ag the Folk Dancer, edited by Michael Herman, brought to light a controversy regarding the Lithuanian folk dance Kalvelis (The Young Smithy). It was claimed that Marija Baronas (now Mrs. Grėbliūnas), who taught this dance to Lithuanians in various settlements, instructed different versions. VILTIS claimed that the dance was adulterated by the New Yorkers. A letter was written to Miss Baronas, who is now in Germany,

and below we print an excerpt of this letter in the original and in translation.

Malonus Ponas Vytatai!

...Dabar del "Kalvelio". Pervaziavau Amerikoj 12 miestų ir kur tik buvau mokinau šokius vienodai ir tuos pačius, nes mano uždavinys buvo parūšti kolonijų šokėjus del Parodos New Yrke. Mokinau šokius taip, kaip Jūs kad esat išmokę. Mažiems (5-7 metų) vaikams, gal kokią figurą išmečiau, kad jiems būtų lengviau išmokti, bet šiaip naujų figurų ne pridėjau. Plojama taip, kaip Jūs man kad rašot. Aš manau, kad New Yorkiečiai norėdami publikai labiau patikt prigalvojo visokių figurų ir iš šokio liko tik musika ta pati(?). Man atrodo, kad LIAUDIES šokiai yra gražus jau patys savo naturalumu, savo folkloro primityvumu. Gaila, kad atsiranda žmonių, kurie šokius visai pakeičia arba prideda kokią figurą, kuri savo charakteriu yra svetima tam šokiui. Jus Gerbianti

M (Baronas) Grėbliunas

"Dear Mr. Vytautas:

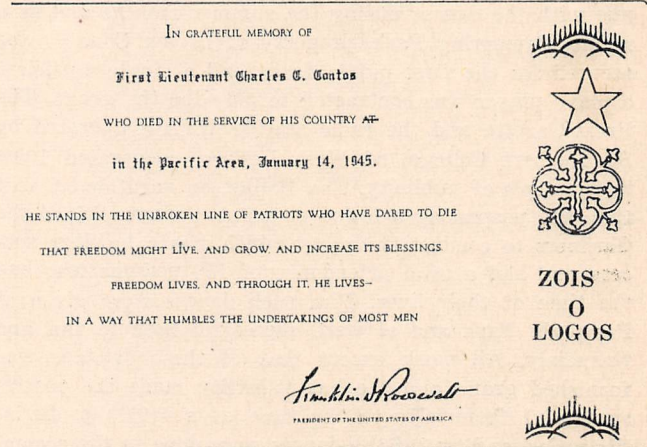
"...Regarding "Kalvelis". I have traveled through 12 American cities and wherever I went I taught all the dances uniformly. My task was to prepare dancers from various (Lithuanian) settlements for the New York fair. I taught the dances just as you know them. To small (5-7 years old) children, perhaps I omitted a figure, that they would find it easier to master. Otherwise I adden no new figures. The clapping of hands is exactly as you write me.\* I think, that the New Yorkers, desiring to please the public, have invented all kinds of figures so that of the entire dance only the music remained the same (?). It seems to me that FOLK dances are lovely in their own naturalness, in its "folklorish" primitiveness. It is to be regretted that there are such people who completely alter the dances or add such figures whose character is foreign to that dance....."

Respectfully

M. (Baronas) Grėbliunas, Germany

(\*In New York they teach the Anglo-Saxon and Germanic pease-porridge type of hand clapping while the true version of clapping imitates the smith at his anvil. The New Yorkers have also added additional figures that do not belong in the dance. VFB)

Dance and Be Merry & Merrily Dance carry the authentic versions of Kalvelis.



## REFLECTION

Nele Lapė

I found a sadness  
And I called it Night -  
I pressed it to my face and wept  
Because it was so beautiful....

## THE HISTORY OF THE GREEN BAY SQUARE DANCERS

John Gardner

Sometimes back around the year of 1936 to the early 1940's, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Bolin, folk and square dance enthusiasts of Western Springs, Ill., used to spend considerable time in Mrs. Bolin's home town, West DePere, Wisconsin.

Family gatherings at West DePere, were not infrequent and usually consisted of fun, loads of good eats, dancing and music. Into these family gatherings the Bolins tried their darn'dest to interest the folks in their own new found fun, the folk dance. After several years of unsuccessful effort, they finally, in a last effort, gave as a Christmas gift to the brother of Mrs. Bolin, John Gardner and sister-in-law, Mildred, a folk dance book.

This book laid around the Gardner Household for a period of several years until finally, trough interest in a local cooperative enterprise, they were again introduced to the folk dance by cooperative recreational leaders. Remembering the dances taught by the Bolins, and re-collecting the fact that they had a book lying around, the book was dug up and additional material added from time to time.

Over a period of several years following 1940, the Gardners', Green Bay rsidents, interested other married couples in taking part in the fun, arranging for parties in various places by telephone invitation and were often aided by interest shown by Grandma, Mrs. John M. Gardner, of West DePere, who would cooperate 100 percent by having open house to the gang that would set up on the Fox River bank and do square and folk dances in the light furnished by two big bonfires, finishing off the evening by having lunch and liquid refreshments and all the usual songs, jokes and merriment to fit the occasion.

Four of the couples taking part in these original parties stuck it out and became the nucleus of the group which in the spring of 1945, became the Green Bay Square Dance Club, sponsored by the Green Bay Recreation Dept.

At the end of 1944-45 school year, activity was dropped for the summer season by the recreational Dept. as school recreational housing facilities were not available during the vacation months. Not satisfied to wait until the coming fall school term, the group wanted to continue with the dances during the summer months and as a result, Pampering Park, property of Brown County, was secured for the first public dance and a single musician, a piano player was contracted to play for the group. The Press-Gazette and the radio station WTAQ, operated by St. Norbert College, of West DePere, cooperated 100% in granting of publicity. The Bolins, on vacation at that time and possessing a brand new P.A. system, helped the Gardners to conduct the party which was a howling success and had a total attendance of 150 persons who had the time of their lives. Five such dances were given at Pamperin Park and al were successful both in fun and financialy. All work except that of the musicians was furnished gratis and the hat collection made the parties successful financially to the tune of a \$10.00 profit at the series, and two of the dances were done to the accompaniment of a 3 piece orchestra.

In November of 1945, the group again returned to the Ft. Howard School and due to the response of teenagers, a separate teen-age night program was set up under the direction of Miss Betty Russell, of the Recreation Department, and an adult program on Thursdays directed by the Gardners. Admission previously had been free



The dance floor scene shows view of the dancers and spectators on last July 3. John Gardner is shown at the "mike" calling. Daughter Ellen faces camera (left foreground). (Press Gazette Photo)

under the Recreation Dept. setup, however, it was suggested that folks taking advantage of a recreational service that provided them with such good fun should be appreciated and a showing of that appreciation made through a 10 cent voluntary donation at the door. This was the start of a fund which over a period of two years, paid for \$650.00 worth of sound equipment, \$100.00 in cash, \$225.00 worth of soundproofing canvas for East High gymnasium, ttwo turntables for skating rinks at \$25.00 each, a \$684.00 Houston (Baldwin built) piano and \$27.00 cover for the same, financed a free street dance, two free hoe-down programs, made up bus trip deficits, repaired sound equipment and has \$350.00 in cash on at this writing.

The summer of 1946 saw the group at Bay Beach, a city owned pavilion located on Green Bay and the season at the beach was very successful. Needing more space, the group was given East High gymnasium for its winter season of 1946-47, by the Recreation Dept. The summer season of 1947 again saw the group at Bay Beach and in this respect, a comparison can be made with the first Pamperin Park daance, two years earlier, when on July 3, the second anniversary of the first public dance, 800 persons attended. Two dance floors, each 60 by 111 feet, were taken over by the group and two dance bands furnished the music for the square, folk and other types of old time dancing. The Bolins were again present and Mr. Bolin was a guest caller. The Recreation Dept. was presented with a new piano at this party and Mr. Vernon Krieser, director of recreation for the city of Green Bay, accepted for the city.

The club members who have been taking part in its activitis for one year, can execute at least 60 square and more than 20 folk dances, both, American and European. The groups' activities are known throgh the state because of the enthusiasm shown by its members and in the fun they have in doing the dances. They are somewhat unorthodox in their play as they believe in doing things in the way which provides them with the maximum amount of fun, yet in exhibition work they'll do the dances to perfection. To date, visitors from all parts of the country are openly amazed by the funful antics of the gang and do not hesitate to compliment the leaders on that fact.